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W E S T M E R S E A

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

1971

P U B L I C H E A L T H C O M M I T T E E

Mrs. L.E. Dawson

Mr. R. D'Wit

Mr. C.S. Smith

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Medical Officer of Health

SYLVIA MACMILLAN, M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P., M.B.B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Surveyor and Inspector

E.J. BANNER, M.INST.H.E., A.R.S.H.

LEXDEN GRANGE,

LEXDEN ROAD,

COLCHESTER,

July, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1971

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

SYLVIA MACMILLAN.

W E S T M E R S E A U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	2,683
Register General's estimate of resident population	4,140
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1971) according to Rate Book	1,829
Rateable Value	£170,886.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,708.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is the western portion of Mersea Island which lies between the estuaries of the rivers Blackwater and Colne. The nearest town is Colchester, situated about 9½ miles to the north.

As a summer health resort, it attracts a large number of holiday makers many of whom enjoy some excellent sailing.

The main industries are agriculture, fishing, building and yacht building.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total 1971
Live Births	65
Legitimate	60
Illegitimate	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	15·7
Comparability Factor	1·58
Corrected Birth Rate	24·8
England and Wales	16·0
Still Births	1
Legitimate	1
Illegitimate	0
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	15
England and Wales	12
Total Births (live and still births)	66
Infant Deaths	0
Legitimate	0
Illegitimate	0
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 births	0
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales	18
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during 1st week per 1,000 total live and still births)	15
Illegitimate live births (as percentage of total live births)	7·4%
Maternal deaths	0
Maternal mortality rate	0
Deaths	76
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	18·4
Corrected death rate	10·1
England and Wales	11·6
Comparability Factor	0·55

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 51.

No action taken under these acts.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The following table shows population in the district and birth and death rates compared with those in England and Wales over the last ten years.

	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Population
	West Mersea (corrected)	England & Wales	West Mersea (corrected)	England & Wales	
1971	24·8	16·0	10·1	11·6	4,140
1970	18·3	16·0	7·6	11·7	3,980
1969	19·8	16·3	9·2	11·9	3,840
1968	23·2	16·9	7·37	11·9	3,740
1967	25·4	17·2	10·7	11·2	3,580
1966	19·9	17·7	9·9	11·7	3,430
1965	20·98	18·0	10·2	11·5	3,320
1964	19·0	18·4	9·0	11·3	3,250
1963	20·1	18·2	14·0	12·2	3,160
1962	19·1	18·0	11·5	11·9	3,110
1961	20·3	17·4	13·7	12·0	3,060

It can be seen that the population has steadily increased since 1962 but that the rate of increase has become much more rapid during the last five years.

The birth rate has increased again in 1971 from 18·3 in 1970 to 24·8 in 1971. This rate has been higher than the National Birth Rate since 1960.

The death rate in the district compares favourably with the national average. The rates are corrected for the age structure of the local population in order to make them comparable to the National Age Structure. In this connection we know from our "Area Comparability Factor" of 0·55 that we have a very large preponderance of elderly people and it is worth noting that over the ten year period this proportion of elderly has increased. (In 1960 the Area Comparability Factor was 0·7)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Non Notified

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health - Sylvia MacMillan, M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Part-time, devoting the remainder of time to two neighbouring authorities and to the County Council.

Public Health Inspector - E.J. Banner, M. Inst. H.E., A.R.S.H., Full time, also Surveyor to the Council

Laboratory Facilities - The Laboratories available are situated at:
The Essex County Hospital, Colchester,
The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.
The Counties Laboratory, 66, Victoria Street, London S.W.1.

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AMBULANCE

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the telephone receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation dial "999" or "0" or "01" and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the Essex County Council

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics
Midwives
Nursing in the Home
Health Visiting
Vaccination and immunisation of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, tuberculosis and german measles
Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus
School Health Services

Chiropody for the Elderly is held all day on the 4th Tuesday in the month at the Health Clinic, Barfield Road, West Mersea, Tele: 2590. Also domiciliary chiropody.

Relaxation and Mothercraft Classes are held at the County Health Services Clinic, Barfield Road, West Mersea. Relaxation on Wednesdays 10.15 am.

Mothercraft on Tuesdays 2.15p.m.

Child Health Clinics are held at the County Health Services Clinic, Barfield Road, West Mersea every Wednesday at 2.15 pm.

Innoculation clinic is 1st Thursday every month in the morning by appointment.

Welfare Foods are obtainable from the Health Services Clinics only.

Cervical Cytology Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester at 9.30 am every Thursday.

Assistance from the Home Help Services is obtained by communicating with Social Services Department, Park Road, Colchester, Tele: Colchester 79511

Health Services Provided by the Regional Hospital Board

V.D. - Sessions held at the Essex County Hospital on Tuesday 5 pm to 6.30 pm and Fridays 10 to 11.30 am.

Family Planning - Family Planning Association:-
Essex County Hospital, Monday and Thursdays 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Tele: Colchester 76257.

Monkwick Health Services Clinic, Tuesdays 6 pm to 9 pm.

IUD Clinics Wednesdays a.m. (by Appointment)

IUD Clinics 1st and 3rd Fridays a.m. (by appointment) Tele: Colchester 78571

Tiptree Health Services Clinic, 1st and 3rd Thursdays 6 pm to 9 pm. Tele: Tiptree 6475.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Inspections

Houses visited under the Housing Acts	52
Visits under Public Health Acts	12
Butcher's shops visited	27
Fried Fish shops visited	10
Ice Cream stores visited	23
Bakehouses visited	3
Visits under Factory Acts	15
Moveable dwellings and Caravans Sites visited	12
Dairies visited	5
Visits under Offices and Shops Acts	74

Notices

Statutory Notices served, Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices served, Public Health Acts	3
Informal Notices complied with	3
Demolition Orders issued	Nil
Demolition Orders complied with	Nil
Closing Orders issued	Nil

SANITARY CIRSUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The water supplied in the district have been under control of the Colchester and District Water Board since the 1st April 1961, and water is supplied direct from the Board's sources which are outside the district.

Premises connected to water mains

The number of houses supplied from the water mains is	1795
The number of houses connected to water mains during the year was	46

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage disposal works and pumping station continue to operate satisfactorily. The disposal of sludge presents more of a problem each year and its removal is now a considerable item expenditure.

The new main outfal sewer from the centre of the district continues to operate satisfactory and has abated the nuisances from surcharging of subsidiary sewers.

Fourty four houses were connected to sewers during the year.

HOUSING

Housing in the district is of good standard with most of the properties owner-occupied and consequently kept in a good state of repair, but a few cases arise each year where it is considered that informal action should be taken. Six properties have been provided with modern amenities with the help of Standard Improvement Grants. The Council do not operate Discretionary Grants.

Fourty Six houses were built by private enterprise. Thirteen applications were approved for Standard Grants and six such grants were recommended for payment.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse from houses and shops is removed at weekly intervals and public cleansing of streets and beaches is carried out twice weekly during the summer season. The paper sack system introduced for the disposal of rubbish on the beach and car parks is still proving satisfactory, and the number of units have been extended.

All refuse is removed to Colchester Borough Council's controlled tip. There are no refuse tips in the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and all meat is supplied to the butcher's shops from Colchester.

The number of food premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act are:-

Meat Products	3
Ice Cream Premises	19

It was not necessary to ask for the voluntary surrender of any food.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Number on Register	14
Number of visits	14
Cases in which defects were found	Nil

OUTWORK

Number of outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (i) (c)	Irregularities Section 110	Irregularities Section 111
Nil	-	-

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